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DRAFTED BY OSD/ISA:JTYLER:MEM
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES
EUR/RPM:WTROBINSON
PM/ISP: JGRAHAM
OASD/ISA:MR. CLINARD
J-5:COL. MADDOX (INFO)
J-3:CAPT. BELECHAK (INFO)
OASD/M AND RA:LT COL. PUSCHECK
OASD/PA AND E: CAPT. BARNETT

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: STUDY ON USE OF WARNING TIME

REFS: A. USNATO 5018 DTG 151825Z SEP 75; B. STATE 185700 DTG 062005Z AUG 75; C. USNATO 5194 DTG 231712Z SEP 75

1. FROM WASHINGTON POINT OF VIEW, OBJECTIVE OF CURRENT STUDY IN JWG IS TO DETERMINE WHETHER NATO NATIONS ARE PREPARED TO CARRY OUT PRELIMINARY ACTIONS CONTRIBUTING TO MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND DETERRENCE, PRIOR TO FULL MOBILIZATION, IN RESPONSE TO INDICATION OF INCREASING WARSAW PACT MILITARY READINESS. THIS WOULD IMPLY BOTH LEGAL AUTHORITY TO ACT AND EXISTENCE OF PROCEDURES OR CONFIDENTIAL

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PLANS TO BE USED. IF EITHER ASPECT IS LACKING, NATO

SHOULD INVITE COUNTRY TO FILL THE VOID.

- 2. ONE RECOGNIZED EXISTING GAP IN US IS THE LACK OF AUTHORITY TO MOBILIZE RESERVISTS FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD WITHOUT A PRIOR DECLARATION OF WAR OR NATIONAL EMERGENCY. LEGISLATION IS BEING SOUGHT WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT TO MOBILIZE UP TO 50,000 SELECTED RESERVISTS FOR UP TO 90 DAYS WITHOUT A DECLARATION OF WAR OR NATIONAL EMERGENCY.
- 3. ON QUESTION OF MORE SPECIFIC TIMING RAISED BY MISSION IN REF A, IN MANY CASES IMPLEMENTATION WOULD VARY ACCORDING TO THE ASSUMED SCENARIO, BOTH AS TO DEGREE OF COMPLETION ENVISAGED AND TIME REQUIRED. HENCE, IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREED SCENARIO, WE PREFER NOT TO QUANTIFY THE TIME MEASURES INDICATED IN REF B; IN GIVING DETAILED US TIMING ESTIMATES FOR A SPECIFIC CRISIS SCENARIO, THERE IS A DANGER THAT THE ALLIES WOULD EXPECT THE US TO MEET THE SAME TIMING IN A DIFFERENT SCENARIO, WHEN OTHER FACTORS MAY HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED WITH A RESULTANT CHANGE IN TIMING. WHILE ACTUAL MOVEMENT TIME FOR FORCES CAN BE RATHER PRECISELY CALCULATED ONCE LIFT ASSETS ARE INDICATED, READINESS OF FORCES TO BE MOVED COULD VARY, PARTICULARLY IF PREPARATORY STEPS ARE TAKEN EARLY IN A SITUATION OF RISING TENSION.
- 4. IF QUESTION IS RAISED OF PROBABILITY OF LOSS OF WARNING TIME PENDING POLITICAL DECISIONS, WE EXPECT THAT IN EACH CASE OF NATIONAL CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY DETERRENT ACTIONS, APPROPRIATE MILITARY READINESS STEPS WILL BE TAKEN IN THE UNITS OR ACTIVITIES CONCERNED SO THAT IF AND WHEN THE RELEVANT NATIONAL DECISION IS TAKEN IT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT DELAY. IN THIS WAY, THERE NEED NOT BE CONSECUTIVE TIME-PERIODS FOR NATIONAL CONSIDERATION AND DECISION AND MILITARY PREPARATION FOR EXECUTION, EXCEPT IN THOSE CASES WHERE AN EARLY POLITICAL DECISION IS TAKEN TO DELAY PREPARATIONS. WE HOPE THAT ONE OF THE RESULTS OF THE NATO STUDY WILL BE THE IDENTIFICATION OF MILITARY ACTIONS OF A DETERRENT NATURE WHICH NATIONS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPLEMENTATION PRIOR TO MOBILIZATION AND FOR WHICH READINESS MEASURES CAN BE TAKEN WHILE POLITICAL/NATIONAL DECISIONS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION.

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